

# EPA closes baseball concession stand

The concession booth at the cemetery baseball fields was closed Wednesday by the Environmental Protection Agency because of asbestos contamination within the structure.

EPA officials met Wednesday afternoon with the Libby Youth Baseball board of directors to announce the results of samplings taken Feb 28, said Duc Nguyen of the EPA.

Preliminary samples showed "low levels" of tremolite asbestos contamination, Nguyen said.

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"bailing out" on Libby  
See Page 8**

"Right now we're shutting it down as a preventive measure," Nguyen said.

The federal agency also did some preliminary surface soil samples of the four baseball fields and found no discernible evidence of tremolite fibers, Nguyen said.

The land is owned by the City of Libby but the fields were primarily built by the baseball association and other volunteers.

The EPA is working with the baseball program's board of directors to find a temporary building to be used during the ongoing baseball season.

The concession stand is a remnant structure of the two youth baseball fields - Kelly-Wollaston fields - that sat near the W.R. Grace export plant on what is now the city's industrial park.

The fields were taken down under order of the city so the land could be used for business development. The old concession stand was moved to the new fields between late summer of 1997 and 1998 when the Kelly-Wollaston fields closed after about 42 years of use.

Nguyen said the EPA will do some subsurface testing for asbestos fibers at a later date. They will dig pits down into the riprap used to fill in the swampy ground before soil was hauled to cover the rock fill.

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